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W. W. H. DAVIS,

AT

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF DOYLESTOWN, PA.,

MARCH 1, 1878.

WHEN the ships of William Penn entered the Capes of Delaware, the vast domain west of that river lay a virgin wilderness. The few Swedes, Hollanders and Fins who had preceded the Quaker immigrants, and were the very advanced pickets of civilization, hugged the river bank and the lower waters of its tributaries, and had done little, or nothing, to break the solitude of the forest. The great founder brought with him a charter of government thoroughly imbued with civil and religious liberty—the very foundation stone of a free State—which, being driven out of the old world, he came to plant in the new.

Bucks county was settled by four distinctly marked races

—making our population a piece of human mosaic—the English, the German, the Welsh, and the Scotch-Irish, the Irish Celt, a race so prolific of stout hearts and strong arms, coming at a later period. One feature in the settlement of our county adds greatly to its interest. The early immigrants came as religious colonists, more intent on securing “freedom to worship God” than worldly gain. These several races have clung to the faith of their fathers with wonderful tenacity. The English Quaker is still guided by George Fox’s “Inner Light”; the German Lutheran and Reformed believe what Luther taught; the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian holds fast to Calvin, and the Welsh Baptist, as of old, clings to his saving ordinance.

The settlement of new countries is governed by a law as well defined as that of commerce or finance. From the time the founders of the human race went abroad to people the wilderness down to the present day, civilization has invariably traveled up the valleys of rivers and their tributaries, while wealth, developed by labor and capital, has as invariably flowed down these same valleys to the sea. This law was observed by our Bucks county ancestors. Landing upon the bank of the beautiful Delaware, they gradually extended up its valley and the valleys of the Pennepack, the Poquessing, and the Neshaminy into the interior. Turning their faces to the west, they plunged into the unbroken wilderness, as if they had early premonition that the march of empire would be toward the setting sun. Year after year this column of English Quakers advanced like an army with banners, leveling the forest, pushing back the Indian, building cabins and meeting-houses, and filling savage haunts with

all the appliances of civilized life. By the close of the century, Bristol, our only sea-port, was a chartered borough; Penn had pointed out the site for his new town in the woods by Newtown creek, and the townstead of Wrightstown was laid out and parcelled among the settlers. Before a generation of years had rolled away settlers were quite numerous in all the townships below the present geographical centre of the county, and shortly after the language, manners and customs of the Rhine were transferred to the Upper Delaware, the Tohickon, and the Lehigh.

But these English civilizers were not allowed to do their great work alone, for other peoples claimed the right to assist in planting free government and a free church in this western wilderness. In the meantime, the Germans, the Welsh, and the Scotch-Irish had heard of the fair commonwealth being established west of the Delaware, and they swarmed across the Atlantic to enjoy its blessings. The Germans followed closely upon the heels of the English, who had hardly seated themselves upon the Delaware, when the language of Luther was heard on the Schuylkill. They began to come early in the last century; a steady stream setting up the valley of the Perkiomen through Montgomery, then Philadelphia, county, and in a few years it spread across the country to the Delaware and the Lehigh. The Welsh Baptists followed the same route a little later in the century, and leaping across the county line, they took undisputed possession of Hilltown and New Britain. These settlers struck the English Quakers coming up from the Delaware in the flank, about the line of Doylestown and Plumstead;

and strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that the English column halted in its march when it came in contact with the Germans and the Welsh, as if these rival civilizations could not flourish on the same soil. A small colony of Quakers, coming up through Montgomery county, settled in Richland and the western part of Springfield, but the Germans confined them within narrow limits. The Scotch-Irish settlers came into the county mainly in family groups, settling in small numbers in several townships, and were the founders of Presbyterianism both in the state and county. In the early part of the last century several families of Hollanders came to the county from Long and Staten Islands, and settled in North and Southampton, Warminster and Bensalem. Their descendants now form a considerable portion of the population of that section, and the men especially are noted for their large size.

The Welsh Baptists and the English Quakers, the most numerous branches of the Bucks county colonists, have not held their own against the aggressive Germans. The latter have seized upon all the upper end townships; have become numerous in the middle districts, and are now gradually working their way down county, threatening to overrun the lower end, as their ancestors overran the fair plains of Italy. They have been coming for over a century at a slow but steady pace, and now their advanced pickets are planted here and there in all the lower townships down to the mouth of the Poquessing. When and where this great Teutonic army will halt, those who celebrate the next Centennial of Doylestown may be able to answer. It must not be forgotten, that when Bucks

county was settled her boundaries embraced nearly all the state west to the Susquehanna, and north to the present New York line, and she is the honored parent of a numerous family of prosperous counties.

Middle Bucks county was settled early. John Chapman, the first to penetrate the wilderness north of Newtown, was in Wrightstown in 1684, and after a hard life in the woods died in 1694, and was buried in the old graveyard near Penn's Park, whither his widow followed him in 1699. Thomas Brown, from Essex, and John Dyer, from Gloucestershire, were among the first white men to disturb the beavers at their dams on Pine Run, in lower Plumstead, settling there about 1712, and thirteen years afterward the township was organized to include Bedminster. Buckingham, Warwick and New Britain, the parent of Doylestown, were organized between 1703 and 1734.

William Penn, the founder of our commonwealth, and the father of Bucks county, is not understood. His appearance has been ridiculed by the artist, and his character slandered by the historian. We are taught from childhood to contemplate his person through the medium of West's frightful painting, which represents him on his arrival as a fat and clumsy man, and dressed in a garb then unknown. But he was altogether a different person. He was an accomplished and elegant gentleman; conversant with the usages of the most polished society of his times, and had been reared amid luxury and educated to all the refinement of that polished age. He wore his sword like a true cavalier, and, unless history belies him, knew how to use it. His portrait at twenty-three presents

him to us as a remarkably handsome young man, and when he came to Pennsylvania, at thirty-eight—hardly in his prime, he was tall and graceful in person, with a comely face and polished manners. He delighted in the innocent pleasures of life, and was in the best sense a christian gentleman and enlightened law-giver, far in advance of his day and generation.

In our rapid growth and increase in material wealth, we forget the debt we owe our Quaker ancestry. They were the first to establish christian worship west of the Delaware, and the early settlers organized religious meetings before they were comfortably housed. They were the earliest pioneers in education and temperance; and long before the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers had given up the traffic in men, the Quakers of Bucks county placed their seal of disapprobation on human slavery. Whether we admit it or not, their influence permeates the whole frame-work of our society, from which source the state gets her large measure of "Justice tempered with Mercy"; her broad charity that has no bounds; her conservatism in politics, and her love of learning.

While this historical relation is germane to the occasion, to listen to it is not just what brought us together. We are assembled to celebrate our village centennial—to round off the first century of its existence with appropriate ceremonies, and thus discharge one of the duties we owe to the town we live in. It is just one hundred years to-day since our beautiful village was first called by the name it bears, and with its present spelling, so far as careful research can inform us. It may have been so called and written at an earlier day, but the period fixed as

the birth-day carries our town back to its earliest infancy.

On the first day of March, 1778, John Lacey, a Quaker Brigadier of Bucks county, who had served in Canada and fought on the Schuylkill, issued the following "brigade orders" from "camp:"

"Parole, *New York*; countersign, *Philadelphia*; officer of the day to-morrow, *Major Lilly*. Adjutant from Cumberland county. Detail the same as yesterday.

"The brigade to be under arms and ready to march to-morrow morning at six o'clock; the men to carry their provisions, knapsacks, etc., on their backs. One wagon belonging to each regiment to be loaded with axes and camp kettles, to go with the brigade; the rest to be ordered to go with the baggage to Doylestown: the men not armed to go along with the baggage, and there stay until they receive their arms; they will receive further orders from Major Cummings. One of the commissaries to attend the brigade; the other to go to Doylestown to provide for the men sent there" Such is the charter that gives Doylestown its name, not wrested like that at Runnymede, from the hands of an unwilling giver, but issued amid the shock of civil war. On the topographical map of the country around Philadelphia, drawn by the engineers of the British army during its occupancy of that city, in 1777-78, the name is spelled "Doyltown," and sometimes General Lacey spelled it "Doyle Town," dividing it into two words.

Doylestown stands upon what was known in olden times as the "Society Lands," part of the tract of twenty thousand acres which William Penn, in 1682, granted to a company of gentlemen of London, who organized as the

¹¹ N.E.E. "Society of Traders." Nearly nine thousand acres were taken up in middle Bucks county, lying principally in the townships of New Britain, Doylestown and Warwick, the northeast boundary being the old Swamp road. When this land was sold by trustees in 1726, Jeremiah Langhorne, of Middletown, bought two thousand acres, seven hundred of which lay in Warwick, east and south of Court street, then the township line, and Joseph Kirkbride, of Falls, purchased a considerable tract north and west of Court street. These two non-residents held the title to the entire Doylestown site one hundred and fifty years ago, and upon this land our town grew up.

This locality became an objective point—long before the most ardent settler dreamed that a village would ever spring up upon it—because it was at the crossing of two great roads, one leading from the Delaware to the Schuylkill, the other from Philadelphia to the Lehigh. The Easton road, which had already been opened up to the Willow Grove, then called Marsh Meadows, was extended to the county line in 1722, to enable Governor William Keith to reach his country house at Graeme Park, and in 1723 it was continued up to John Dyer's mill, in the woods of Plumstead, at what is now Dyers-town, and passing over the site of Doylestown. In 1730 a road was laid out and opened from the York road at Centreville to what is now Gordon's corner, on the Montgomery line, thus affording a continuous highway from the Delaware to the Schuylkill. These important roads intersected at what is now State and Main streets, and formed the earliest crossroads at Doylestown. The future county seat remained thus, and nothing more, for nearly a century.

The breaking up of the great tract of Society land invited settlers to this vicinity. The first person to occupy the site of Doylestown is unknown, but no doubt he was a squatter, with dog and gun, who came to look after the game on the wooded hills and the beavers and fishes in the streams, and built his cabin on some sunny slope. We have the names of several who settled in this neighborhood between 1725 and 1735. Among them were Charles Stewart, a captain in the French and Indian war, a young man of culture from Scotland, who came before 1730, and whose descendants of the fifth generation are still living here; Benjamin Snodgrass, an Irish immigrant, whose whole family perished on the voyage except one daughter, who married again and left numerous descendants; James Meredith, from Chester county, who was on the Neshaminy, about Castle Valley, as early as 1730, whose son Hugh was a practicing physician at Doylestown in 1776, and to whom the distinguished William M. Meredith owed kinship; Walter Shewell, who came from Gloucestershire in 1732, and settled two miles west of Doylestown, where he built Painswick Hall, still the family home—the Doyles and others. Edward Doyle—then spelled Doyl—bought one hundred and fifty acres of Joseph Kirkbride the 30th of March, 1730, on the New Britain side of Court street. In five years he was followed by William Doyle from the north of Ireland, probably a cousin or brother, and both were living in the neighborhood in 1775. Joseph Fell took up a large tract extending to Pool's Corner, northeast of the town, and Jonathan Mason was a considerable purchaser near New Britain church. In 1745 we find the following ad-

ditional names of residents: David Thomas, William Wells, John Marks, Thomas Adams, Thomas Morris, Hugh Edmund, Clement Doyle, William Beal, Joseph Burges, Nathaniel West, William Dungan, Solomon McLean and David Eaton. One hundred years ago Edward and William Doyle, Joseph Kirkbride, William and Robert Scott and Joseph and Samuel Flack owned all the land the town stands upon and that immediately adjacent. At his death, in 1742, Jeremiah Langhorne left a life estate in three hundred and ten acres to his negroes, Joe and Cudjo, which included all that part of our borough south and east of Main street.

Doylestown, like most American towns, was born of a roadside inn and a neighboring log house or two. An inn to quench the thirst of the weary traveler was opened here by William Doyle as early as 1745, which March he went down to Court at Newtown with a petition for license, signed by fourteen of his neighbors, which stated that there was no public house within five miles. The license was renewed in 1746-48-54 and several times afterward, and in all the thirty years that William Doyle was the landlord of this pioneer hostelry the locality was called "Doyle's tavern." He left the tavern between 1774 and 1776 and removed to Plumstead, where he died. Several localities have been assigned to this old tavern—where the old brewery stands on West State street, the site of R. F. Scheetz's dwelling on West Court, but at that day out in the fields, on the ground occupied by this building, and on the opposite corner, the site of Corson's hotel. But speculation is much at fault. As Doyle lived in New Britain, the tavern, if opened in

his own house, was north and west of Court street, but if he built or rented a house for the inn, there can hardly be a doubt that it was at or near the cross roads, a necessity to command the travel of both highways. What an interesting chapter a history of the comings-in and goings-out at this old inn a century and a quarter ago, with a note of the conversations of the plain pioneer farmers, as they warmed their shins at the bar-room fire, would make! But it has all been swept down the tide of time. The tavern torn down to erect the building in which we are assembled was one of the oldest public houses in the town. It was purchased by Samuel and Joseph Flack in 1773, and they kept it until 1791. The eastern end was first built, and that next Main street was probably added when license was granted. A child of Samuel Flack was buried from the house the 1st of May, 1778, the day Lacey's men fought the British at the Crooked Billet. A few friends carried the corpse to Neshaminy graveyard on horseback, and while burying it could distinctly hear the firing on the battlefield. The Fountain House is now the oldest inn in the town, and on that corner there has been a tavern well nigh a century. It was kept by Charles Stewart in 1798, and there the Bethlehem stages stopped for dinner; but it fell into the hands of Enoch Harvey about 1800. Of our other public houses I have but a word to say. The old Mansion House was first licensed about 1813, and Clear Spring hotel was called Bucks County Farmer in 1812, and three years afterward it was kept by Jacob Overholt. The Court Inn has been a public house over half a century. The Ross mansion was an hotel several years before the county seat

was removed to Doylestown, and in 1812, when kept by one Hare, it was called the Indian Queen.

Time will not allow a very minute tracing of our borough's past, but I crave your indulgence while I picture it as our fathers knew it. Its buildings at the close of the last century can be counted on the fingers of the two hands. We start at the log school house, enveloped in timber, on Main street below Ashland ; come up Main to the frame store house on the Lenape lot ; step across the street to the frame on the site of Shade's tin-shop ; passing the two taverns, that is if we are not thirsty, we come to Dr. Hugh Meredith's, in Armstrong's old stone house, with frame office attached ; then across to the dwelling of Mr. Fell, the village blacksmith, now part of the Ross mansion, and near by stood the log dwelling of George Stewart, about the site of the *Intelligencer* office ; then to the Ross stable, hoary with age ; the old frame, torn down a few years ago by N. C. James, from which the *Bucks County Intelligencer* was first issued ; and now retracing our steps into State street, we bid adieu to our first generation of buildings in front of the old log on the brewery lot, which claimed the honor of the first tavern, but whether true or not, it comes down to us with the odor of a bad reputation. At that time the town site was well wooded—on both sides of Main from Broad to the Cross Keys ; on the north side of Court out to the borough line ; the southern part of Main below Ashland, and the Riale and Armstrong farms were heavily timbered. As meagre as the village was, it contained the seed that grows American towns in all parts of our country—two taverns, a store and a smith shop. Before

the century closed a new-comer was added to the population, in the person of Enoch Harvey, the father of Joseph and George T., a descendant of Thomas, who settled in Upper Makefield in 1750. As he had come to stay, he found a wife in the daughter of Charles Stewart.

When the old century turned the corner into the new, the sleepy hamlet wakened up a little. The timber was cut from some of the wooded slopes, and an occasional settler came in. In 1800 Daniel and Jonathan McIntosh came here from Winchester, Va., and Isaac Hall, the father of Samuel, from New Jersey, the father building the stone house on State street where the son now lives. In 1808 Josiah Y. Shaw came down from Plumstead and built the Gunnagan house; and the Harvey and Nightingale dwellings were built in 1813, the Doylestown bank being opened in the latter in 1832. In this period Elijah Russell built a log house on the knoll opposite the Clear Spring tavern, and one Musgrave, from Canada, built a log on Main, and a shop near by for his son, a wheelwright. Sernek Titus built the old end of the Lyman house, torn down in 1873, where he lived and carried on harness making in a shop that stood in Dr. James' yard opposite. The stone house of Mrs. A. J. LaRue, at Broad and Main, was built near the same time by Septimus Evans, the father of the late Henry S. Evans, of West Chester, and in which a tavern was kept many years. Doylestown had a portrait painter as early as 1805, one Daniel Farley, a versatile genius, who, to the limner's art, added paper-hanging and glazing.

With the new century came increased mental activity, and our "rude forefathers" began to look above and be-

yond mere material culture. The first newspaper ever published in Bucks county was issued from the "Centre House, Doylestown," by Isaac Ralston, July 25th, 1800 — *The Farmers' Weekly Gazette*. Although sustained by that sublime political doctrine, "Open to all parties, but influenced by none," it soon took its departure for that ~~undiscovered country~~ ^{place} provided for defunct newspapers. It was followed in 1804 by *The Pennsylvania Correspondent and Farmers' Advertiser*—a long name for a small newspaper—the parent of the *Bucks County Intelligencer*. It was established by Asher Miner, a young Connecticut Yankee, who had learned his trade at Wilkesbarre, where he married Polly Wright, whose father had run away with the daughter of Josiah Dyer, of Plumstead, a third of a century before. The new venture in journalism met a better fate than the old. The story is told that when young Miner came to Doylestown, he drove down to Warrington to see the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, the pastor at Neshaminy, and the recognized head of the Democratic party, and asked his support for the paper. The good parson declined, on the ground that he did not like Mr. M.'s politics, but the latter said he would publish an independent paper, to which Mr. Irwin replied: "Yes, you say so, but then you look toward Buckingham." This settled the question. The *Democrat* was started twelve years afterward, 1816. Three years of journalistic tribulation culminated in a division of the Democratic party, and the establishment of a rival paper, the *Bucks County Messenger*, known to history as the "Yellow Fever Paper." In the hope of uniting the rival interests and bringing peace within the political borders,

the *Messenger* passed into other hands, and ex-Senator Simon Cameron, then a young jour just out of his time, was invited to take charge of it. He came up in the stage the last of December, 1820, a fellow passenger with Mifflin, the proprietor of *The Democrat*, between whom and the other passengers the political situation was fully and freely discussed, including Cameron's anticipated coming, the future prospects of the rival papers, &c. Mr. Cameron had the prudence to keep silent, and when, on the arrival of the stage at Doylestown, he was known and announced as the "new printer," there was some little dismay in the ranks of the opposition. Mr. Cameron issued his first number January 2d, 1821, stating in his address to his subscribers that his paper would be "purely Democrat." Shortly afterward the two papers were consolidated under Cameron and Mifflin, and within a year the establishment passed into the hands of the late General W. T. Rogers.

The Union Academy was built in 1804, from funds raised partly by subscription and partly by lottery. It was first occupied in July, and the trustees invited the Rev. Uriah DuBois, the pastor at Deep Run and a descendant of the Huguenot Louis DuBois, who settled on the Hudson in 1660, to take charge of it. The Reverend Uriah was the immediate ancestor of our townspeople who bear the name. As an inducement for parents to send their children to the school in the Academy, it was announced that "the Bethlehem and Easton mail stages pass through the town twice a week;" and, as winter approached, the patrons were invited to meet and consult on a "proper and certain" plan for furnishing the

school with wood. Boarding school was kept in the academy for many years, and several able men had charge of it. A room in the building was set apart for religious meetings of all denominations, and in it was gathered the nucleus of the Doylestown Presbyterian church, the first church building being erected in 1813-15. Doylestown remained a simple cross-roads, with a few dwellings and other buildings along the two highways, until 1807, when Court street was opened on the line of New Britain and Warwick, from Main street east. Broad street was laid out in 1811, and in 1818 Court street was extended west to State. There were no additional streets laid out until after the borough was incorporated in 1838, and the modern streets and avenues were opened as improvements required, from 1865 to 1872.

The removal of the county-seat from Newtown to Doylestown, in 1813, assured the future growth and prosperity of the town. At that time the population was hardly two hundred, and we are told that eight years afterward there were but twenty-nine dwellings in the town, including the Academy, in which a family lived. The removal was only made after a stubborn fight, and the engendering of bitter feelings that required years to assuage. As in all other movements of the day, Parson Irwin was very active in this, and we are told that his influence was mainly instrumental in robbing Newtown of the county capital. He was made the subject of a charcoal cartoon on the walls of the old court house, which represented him in his shirt sleeves, with a rope around the building and his body, and pulling with all his might in the direction of Doylestown. The new court house

was erected on a lot, now in the heart of the village, the gift of Nathaniel Shewell, and court was first held in it the 12th of May, 1813. At that time there was but one or two buildings on both sides of Court street from the Ross dwelling out to the borough limit. The growth of the town was still very gradual, and eighteen years after it was made the county-seat there was but one building, and that a log, on the east side of Court street from Main to the Academy.

The county-seat brought with it several new families to the town, officers of the courts, members of the bar, and others, whose descendants are now among the oldest of our citizens. Among these were the Chapmans, the Rosses, the Foxes, the Pughs, the Morrisises, et al. Of the Chapman ancestry I have already spoken, whose descendant, Abraham Chapman, long the father of our bar, has been gathered to his fathers. The Rosses are descended from Thomas, who came from Ireland in 1728 and settled in Upper Makefield, who, after a useful life, returned to England on a visit, in 1786, and died at the house of Lindley Murray, near York. This sturdy Quaker, who loved his country better than his meeting in the Revolutionary day, and who, when called before the Wrightstown elders to be disciplined, quietly defied their authority, said among his last words: "I see no cloud in my way; I die in peace with all men." The late Judge Fox, the first of the family in the county, was the son of Edward Fox, who came from England or Ireland before the Revolution, and was Auditor General of the State in 1783, when Joseph Reed was its President. The Pughs were Welsh, Hugh Pugh, the ancestor, settling in Ches-

ter county about 1725, and coming to Hilltown in Bucks about 1750. His oldest son, John, who died in 1842, served several sessions in the Legislature, was twice elected to Congress, and held county offices. The Morris were English Friends, and settled in Byberry, but were in Hilltown before 1722, where they became Baptists; and Matthias, who was a member of our bar, and served in the Senate and in Congress, died in Doylestown at the early age of fifty-two. There are other families which date their residence here from the period of the removal of the county-seat, among which may be mentioned the Magills, the Wigtons, the Brocks, et al. The residence of the Vanluvanees is as old as the century.

Two years after Doylestown became the county-seat the town was ravaged by typhus fever, one of the earliest victims being John L. Dick, whose remains were the first to be interred in the Presbyterian graveyard. A young member of the bar, his intimate friend, who was with him in his last moments, thus speaks of his death in a letter written the same day: "My friend, John L. Dick, died to-day at two p. m. of the typhus fever. How frail is man! Ten days ago he was in the vigor of health. Alas, how visionary our hopes of earthly happiness! But two months since he married Miss Erwin, the daughter of the richest man in the county. How soon their fondest anticipations of future bliss were destroyed!" Shortly afterward the writer of the letter followed his friend to the grave, with three other members of his family, all dying in the same house within a few days. Nevertheless, He who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," has vouchsafed our town remarkable exemption from disease, and its normal condition is health.

Doylestown has never been without schools where the higher branches of learning are taught. For many years the school in the Academy, under the Rev. Uriah DuBois, monopolized the educational interest of the town and neighborhood. About the time Mr. DuBois died, George Murray, a Scotchman, and a graduate of Aberdeen, who had taught in New Jersey and at several points in this State, came to Doylestown to fill the place left vacant. He taught in the Academy until 1829, when he opened a boarding school in his own house, on State street, where Mr. Barber lives, and kept it until 1842. He died two years ago at the age of ninety-five. He was a fine classical scholar, and so far as his government of a school was concerned, he was a firm believer "in the old Constitution," and it is not known that he ever spoiled a child by sparing the rod. He is still remembered with pain. The Ingham Female Seminary was incorporated in 1838, but it was not maintained as a boarding school after 1843.

After Doylestown became the county-seat its growth was slow for several years—in 1820 the population being but three hundred and sixty, and only five hundred nine years afterward. In one decade, from '40 to '50, the increase was but ninety-four. The actual population at this time is about two thousand, which includes an hundred or two immediately contiguous to, but outside, the borough limits. A visible improvement began about 1830, when the first brick house was erected; and in the next ten years a number of good dwellings were built, including some on the square opposite the court house. The incorporation of the town into a borough in 1838 gave it a

new impetus. The town now had "borough fathers" to look after its interests. The streets were graded, the sidewalks paved, and other improvements made. Several things combined to arouse the county-seat from the Rip Van Winkle sleep into which it had fallen. One of the most important events in the last forty years was the opening of the Branch of the North Penna. railroad in 1856, which gave the inhabitants an easy and rapid connection with the outside world, and brought to the town a new class of travelers. The first electric wire was run through the town, and an office opened, in the fall of 1845 in Mr. Shade's building.

Doylestown has made her greatest strides since the close of the civil war. In the last thirteen years there have been many dwellings erected in the eastern and western parts of the borough, where building lots have been sold and streets opened. The Doylestown Seminary was built in 1866 and enlarged in 1869, and the Linden Seminary was built in 1871. The building of the Agricultural and Mechanics' Institute was erected in 1866; water was introduced in 1869; the gas-works enlarged in 1873; and the handsome building in which we are assembled, and which would do credit to any town, was built in 1874. The beautiful monument to the memory of the dead of the regiment Bucks county sent to the field in the civil war, and which adorns the centre of the town, was erected in the spring of 1868. Within the last ten years three new churches have been erected, one at an expense of \$25,000. A number of new dwellings have been built in the older portions of the town, and improvements and adornments are being made on every hand;

while many of the farms in the immediate vicinity have been cut up and pleasant villas erected thereon.

Thus we have pictured the birth, infancy, childhood and early manhood of our beautiful village, and we now come to its maturer years. New Doylestown loses nothing by comparison with the old. It has an intelligent and virtuous population; the streets are well shaded and lighted; has an abundant supply of pure, fresh water; the dwellings make up in solid comfort and convenience what they lack in elegance and costly adornment; churches, where men and women of every faith go up to worship, "with none to molest or make them afraid." We have skillful physicians ever ready to "heal the ills that flesh is heir to;" well-kept hotels, and banks where everybody well-endorsed, can borrow money, but notes will come due, in spite of all things, and that too often when there is not "a red" on hand to pay with. Then we have schools, benevolent institutions, and industrial establishments; a public library, newspapers, the electric wire, and other appliances of civilized life. Add to these a most delightful town site, on a plateau which falls off on every side but one to winding streams and smiling valleys at its base, with cultivated and wooded slopes beyond, and we have a picture of the best type of a Pennsylvania village.

The location of Doylestown, on the great road from the Forks of Delaware to Philadelphia, made it a stopping place for stages from their earliest running. John Nicholas put a line on this route in April, 1792, making weekly trips at two dollars a passenger. In 1794, Lawrence Erb, of Easton, put on another line, at the same

fare, running down on Monday and returning on Thursday. A semi-weekly stage, between Bethlehem and Philadelphia, ran through Doylestown in 1800, and the first daily line was put on in 1828. When James Reeside succeeded Nicholas in 1822, he put Troy coaches on the road, the first used in this part of the country, which continued to run down to the opening of the Delaware-Belvidere railroad, in 1854. In the meantime a number of stages were run between Doylestown and Philadelphia, both semi-weekly and daily—the first local line that we have knowledge of being the “Doylestown Coachee” in 1813. There are some in the audience who remember our later passenger coaches, which only ceased running when the Branch of the North Penn. road was opened in 1856. Benny Clark’s “High-grass” line has passed into history, “and his soul is with the just, we trust.” He was succeeded by John Service, both famous whips in their day. Some of my hearers cannot have forgotten how Service was in the habit of comforting his passengers when there was an appearance of danger in going down hill, by saying to his horses: “Now run away and kill another driver, won’t you!” Unfortunately railroads have destroyed the romance of stage-coaching, and almost put an end to the occupation of Dick Turpin’s successors.

While Doylestown was removed from the shock of contending armies in the struggle between the colonies and Mother country, it is not unknown to Revolutionary annals. During the trying winter of 1777–78, it was for a time the headquarters of General Lacey, who held the difficult command embraced between the Delaware and

the Schuylkill. Here he had his depot of stores, and here were assembled his courts-martial to try offenders. When the Continental army broke up its cantonment at Valley Forge, in June, 1778, and marched to meet the enemy at Monmouth, it passed through Doylestown. As soon as it was known that the enemy had evacuated Philadelphia, and was pushing for New York, Washington sent General Lee, with six brigades, in advance, on the 18th, passing through our borough, and crossing the Delaware at New Hope the night of the 20th. The same day, the 18th, at six o'clock, p. m., Washington wrote to Congress: "I shall move with the main body of the army at five in the morning to-morrow." On the 20th, at four, p. m., he again wrote to Congress, and to General Gates, that he was within ten miles of Coryell's ferry, now New Hope, and that he would "halt to refresh the troops and for the night, as the weather is very rainy. General Lee, with the six brigades, mentioned in my former letter, will reach the ferry this evening." At that time Washington and his army—that body of soldiers which carried the destiny of the struggling colonies on the points of their bayonets—lay at Doylestown in a furious rainstorm. Here the army remained until the next afternoon, occupying three encampments—on the south side of State street, west of Main; on the ridge east of the Presbyterian church, and along the New Hope pike, east of the borough mill. Washington pitched his tent near the dwelling of Jonathan Fell, now John G. Mann's farmhouse, and General Lafayette quartered at the house of Thomas Jones. It is related of Mrs. Jones that the patriotic lady was so delighted with having the gallant

young Frenchman for her guest that she put him to sleep in her best bed, an honor we hope the General duly appreciated. When he got up the next morning, she welcomed him with a smiling face, and asked him how he had slept over night, to which he replied, in his broken English: "Very well, Madam, but your bed was a little too short." The army marched from Doylestown the afternoon of the 21st of June, and crossed the river the next day, when Washington again wrote Congress: "I am now in Jersey, and the troops are passing the river at Coryell's, and are mostly over."

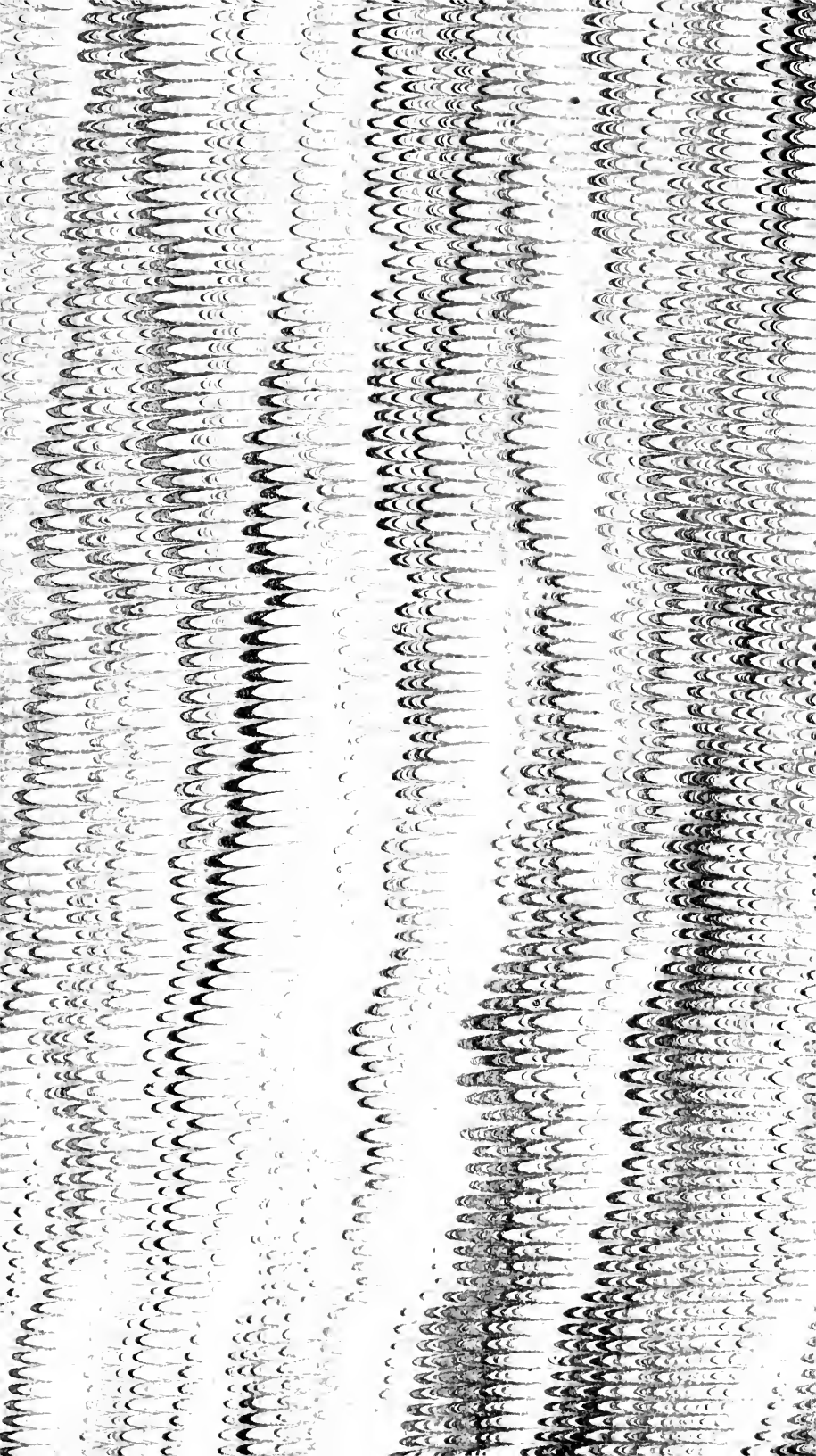
Our town has never been deaf to the calls of patriotism, and a number of her sons have met their death on the battlefield. When court met on Monday, August 28th, 1814, the late Judge Fox, then a young man and deputy Attorney-General, arose and announced that the capital of the country was in the hands of the enemy, and Baltimore and Philadelphia threatened, and moved that the court do adjourn. Upon its refusal, Mr. Fox took up his hat and left the room, followed by the late Samuel Hart, then associate judge, and most of the people. A meeting was organized outside, which Mr. Fox addressed in a spirited speech, when he returned to Newtown and assisted to raise a company of volunteers. In a few days William Magill, of Doylestown, recruited a company of riflemen in the neighborhood, whose uniforms were made up in the court house, the day before they marched, by the young ladies of the village. I need not speak of the way Doylestown discharged her duty in the late civil war, for that is of too recent date to be forgotten; but if witnesses were wanting, we have them in the widow and

fatherless children, and yon silent monument which bears testimony to the deeds of our honored dead.

If time would permit, it would be a pleasant duty to call up the forms of those who in other days were a living presence in our streets, and whose culture and character were a power in our village life. Doylestown has not been without her notable characters, and, upon a broader plain, some of them would have achieved great distinction. Our bar has produced a number of men our village annals should delight to honor. Our lawyers of the past have sat in the council chamber and upon the bench, and of the present several wear the ermine with credit to themselves and the profession, two occupying seats in the highest judicial tribunals of the State and nation. Of those who have gone to that "undiscovered country" the poet writes about, many present remember the venerable Chapman, the able Fox, the learned Ross, the genial DuBois, the eloquent McDowell, and the young and gallant Croasdale, who met his death in the shock of battle by the rolling Potomac. In all the other walks of life, our townsmen have borne equally well their part. The Christian minister comforts the sick and the afflicted, and leads the erring up to a better life beyond the stars; while the humane physician, the co-worker of the man of God, in deeds of charity, spends day and night in binding up the wounded body. We boast our skilled mechanic, whose handiwork adorns our town on every side, and the virtuous laborer, whose honest toil sweetens his daily bread, and yields the wealth of the universe.

While celebrating their centennial year, the people of Doylestown should not forget the blessings that are theirs,

nor fail to return thanks to the Giver. Their lives have fallen in wonderfully pleasant places. They live in a beautiful town, surrounded by a most charming country, and far removed from the demoralizing influence of great centres. The atmosphere is healthful and invigorating, and our people have been preserved in a remarkable degree from contagious diseases. Health is the normal condition of all within our borders, and peace and contentment spread their angel wings over all. Satisfied with the pleasing picture of the present, I refrain from speaking of the future, whose story will be told by him who fills my place an hundred years to come.





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